to Travancore? Is there any proposal for the diversion of the Chalakkudi river to Travancore ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes, the Travancore Government have proposed so. They put the proposition that they would like to divert the water of the Chalakkudi river.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will that in any way affect the waters coming for the use of those living in plains ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The question of rights has got to be settled before utilising the water. These questions are now being gone into. While that is so, I cannot answer anything now.

The resolution was, therefore, considered withdrawn.

(9) Committee of enquiry for Co-operative Department.

President.—The next resolution is in the name of Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I do not move it.

As the following resolution was not moved it was considered withdrawn:—

"That in view of the numerous allegations made in the Press and especially in the open letter published by certain non-officials including the President of the Central Co-operative Bank this Council recommends to the Government that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials be appointed without delay to enquire into the working of the Co-operative Department."

(10) Hoarded Revenue of the State.

President.—The next is Mr. Thomas Manjuran's resolution.

The following resolution was not moved and hence considered withdrawn.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran. — "This Council recommends that at least half the hoarded revenue of the State, hoarded during the last five years, be utilised for the more important public needs such as new hospitals and dispenaries, making of new roads and satisfactory maintenance of existing ones, development of irrigation facilities, opening better facilities for efficient sanitation, development of industries, etc., etc. This Council also recommends that whenever reproductive works of a commercial nature are undertaken by the Government, they should be mainly financed by earmarked loans raised for the purpose and not by the revenues of the State, hoarded or current."

(11) Economic Depression.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I move "that this Council recommends to the Government to appoint a small committee to investigate and report immediately the causes and the extent of the present economic depression in the country and to suggest remedial measures."

That there is a great economic depression throughtout the country admits of no doubt and requires no speech from me. I think every Member is aware that we are passing through a very serious economic depression and there is nobody who has

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not felt the pinch of it. What the cause of that depression is, what the extent of the damages it has done to the State, how to remedy them are things which it has not been possible for us to correctly diagnose. It is part of a world wide movement and various reasons are attributed as causes for this depression. What an ordinary man, a man in the street, knows is that there is no price for the articles that he produces, that there is no money to purchase the necessaries of life although all of them are very cheap. They are not able to make money enough to meet the cost of cultivation. The prices of the raw products that they make have gone down in some cases from 25 to 75 per cent, so much so that many of them are not even in a position to meet the cost of cultivation. Many have begun to give up cultivation. There are some industries, such as tile factories, which were absorbing large number of people, giving work to a large number of persons, and those factories are being compelled to close their doors and many are thrown out of their work simply because of the fact that they do not find a sale for the article that they make. In this way instances can be multiplied. We find that the general indebtedness is increasing. The kuries for which many people are subscribing are compelled to be defaulted and all, except perhaps some of the Government servants who get their pay regularly in cash, feel that they are in very bad circumstances and do not know how to get over them. They are spending their days thinking philosophically that better times would come. But nobody knows when they will come. As a matter of fact, nobody knows how this acute depression is caused. Some will attribute it to exchange ratio, some will say it is due to the Gandhi Movement, the political movement that is going on in British India. It is certainly a world-wide catastrophy and we have also to suffer. But nobody has suggested any practicable or feasible scheme by which we can escape out of this. The Governments responsible to the people are having very anxious consideration over these matters and they are doing their best to evolve a solution for this. So far as we are concerned, we are not doing anything and my object in tabling this resolution is to bring to the notice of this House as well as of the Government the extraordinary strain through which the people of the State are passing; and my submission is that only an expert committee, after due investigation, can suggest any remedial measures. The Government also can do something in the line by the remission of taxes and all that. But as matters stand, unless there is a strong recommendation by an expert committee, which it is not likely that the Government will move in this matter. So, for all these rea-

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I commend this resolution for the careful consideration of this House and request the Government to accept it and do what is needful under the circumstances.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, resolution No. 33 standing in my name, is on an identical matter and I may be permitted to move the same, by way of seconding this resolution under consideration. It reads as follows:—"This Council recommends to the Government to appoint immediately a committee with the Diwan Peishkar as its Chairmanand convener to enquire in to the causes for the heavy depression in trade at present, and for this unprecedented fall in prices for home products, with a view to assist those that have been seriously affected by the present crisis." Sir, nothing is a more burning problem to-day than this trade depression. It is not a thing which has affected only one individual or one country. You will find in British Cochin some of the European firms actually closed and others doing practically no business at all. And if you step in to the country side you will find the poor people driven into a state of poverty and starvation. The prices of home products, especially paddy, cocoanuts, arecanuts, etc., have gone down considerably. May I therefore request you, Sir, to kindly investigate into the causes for this great and unprecedented depression in trade and to suggest what remedial measures may be taken in order to avert the famine that is threatening us to-day. People sitting here may not have come across cases of famine and struggle for existence in rural areas. That matter has been well brought out to the notice of this House by the mover himself and I need hardly speak on that issue. I need not also go at any length to convince the House of the immediate necessity for an enquiry to be conducted, to find out a real solution out of this imminent danger which is threatening us at our very doors.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I support this resolution. We are faced with an emergent situation to meet which there is no particular department in the Government. Therefore, there is a necessity of appointing a committee. It is not safe now to disregard the trade depression that we are facing in the country. I represent a constituency of which the population is mostly poor. And they are, I may tell the House, most of them, even starving now, for want of work, owing to the depression in the coir industry. Not only poor but even the rich people are suffering now. It is therefore, the duty of the Government, in General, to find some solution for this difficulty. I heartily support this resolution.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know whether the general Economic Development Committee has done anything in this direction?

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Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I support this resolution. There is resolution No. 69 standing in my name making the same recommendation. In answer to the question which was put by the Hon'ble Member just now, I may tell the House that this resolution was referred by the Government to the Economic Development Committee and that Committee has agreed to the desirability of appointing a committee as recommended by this resolution. With regard to the extent of the economic distress, I have nothing to add to what has been already said by the previous speakers. They have given us a correct idea of the deplorable and depressed condition to which the country is reduced on account of the present economic depression. Coming as I do from a rural part of the State and realising as I do the difficulties of the people of my locality I can say that there is not a word of exaggeration in all that has been said by the previous speakers. There are several families which are actually starving and who cannot appease their hunger for 3 or 4 days consecutively. They are forced to manage with some beverages or some unwholesome diet that may be provided for by their neighbours. Such is the economic distress that is prevailing in the country. We who are placed in a more fortunate position for some reason or other, cannot adequately realise the intensity of the suffering of the people. It is up to the Members of this House, who are in touch with the poor people, to bring it to the notice of the Government that this situation cannot be lightly treated on the ground that Government cannot be expected to regulate the world economic forces. There is a stale and oft-advanced argument of the Government when similar situations are brought to their notice. It is something to this effect: "This is a world-wide situation. There are certain world economic forces which cannot be regulated by one State alone". This kind of reasoning will not satisfy the people who are actually starving. The Government represent the intelligence of the public. That being so, when the public are faced with a difficult situation and when, not knowing what relief they can have to escape it, they resign themselves in the hands of the Government for some relief, it is sad of the Government to say "we cannot do anything for you by way of help". That is not the way in which the Government should meet the situation. The State ought to go to the rescue of the people when they are in need. At the time of war the State actually comes to the succour of the people. They suspend certain contractual obligations and provide some works of relief. During the Great War what is known as a moratorium was declared in England. Several drastic steps were resorted to in times of economic distress. I do not know whether our Government will be called upon to go to that

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extent. Some substantial relief has to be provided, but what should be the extent and the nature of the relief can best be found out by a committee which should go into the matter. Therefore, the recommendation of the Hon'ble Member that a committee should immediately be appointed by Government for this purpose may kindly be accepted. With these remarks I whole-heartedly support this resolution.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. കെ. കുഞ്ഞുമൊയ്തീൻ.—ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്നു നാട്ടിൽ ഭയങ്കരമായി ബാധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ക്ഷാമം നിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരും വളരെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടിലും സങ്കടത്തിലും ആണ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നതെന്നു സംശയമില്ലാതെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും ഒരുപോലെ അറിവുള്ള ഒരു വാസ്തവമാണ്. നാട്ടിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ക്ഷാമനിവാരണത്തിനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ആലോചിപ്പാനായി ധൃതഗതിയിൽ മഹായോഗങ്ങൾ കൂടി പല നിശ്ചയങ്ങളും പാസ്സാക്കി. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനും അവരുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായ കൌൺസിൽമെമ്പർമാർക്കും അയച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷക്കായി എന്തെല്ലാമാണ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി വളരെ ഗാഢമായും ശ്രദ്ധാകരമായും എന്നാൽ ഒട്ടും താമസിക്കാതെയും ആലോചിച്ചു ഉടനെ അതിനുള്ള നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ അതിപ്രധാനമായ ഒരു കർത്തവ്യമാകുന്നു. ഈ കാര്യത്തിനു വേണ്ടപരിഹാരം കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാനായി ഒരു വിദഗ്ധകമ്മിറ്റിയെ എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ നിയമിക്കേണ്ടതും ആ കമ്മിറ്റി കഴിയുന്നതും ക്ഷണത്തിൽ അതിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതും അതിന്മേൽ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ഗാഢമായി അല്പവും താമസിയാതെ വേണ്ട നടപടികളും നടത്തേണ്ടതുമാണ്. അതിനുള്ള കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അത്യന്തഭയങ്കരമാംവണ്ണം ക്ഷാമദേവത രാജ്യത്തെ വലയം ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. പക്ഷേ ഈ കൌൺസിൽ ഈ നിശ്ചയം പാസ്സാക്കി. ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയീഭവിപ്പിച്ചു് പിന്നീടു് ഒരു ഉത്തരവിട്ടു" ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിരൂപീകരിച്ചു് കമ്മിറ്റിക്കാർ അവരുടെ ഗാഢമായ ആലോചനയുടെ ഫലമായ റിപ്പോർട്ടെല്ലാം സമർപ്പിച്ചതിനുശേഷം ഒരു ഉത്തരവു പാസ്സാകുന്നതിനു കാത്തിരിക്കാൻ നാട്ടിൽ വിശപ്പുകൊണ്ടും പട്ടിണിയാലും വലയുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു പക്ഷേ ക്ഷമയും സമാധാനബുദ്ധിയും ഉണ്ടായില്ലെന്നു വന്നേക്കാം എന്ന സംശയവും കൂടി ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനെ ശങ്കിയിയായി ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. എന്നാൽ കമ്മിറ്റി വേണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതായി വിചാരിക്കരുതു്. കമ്മിറ്റി ഏറ്റവും ആവശ്യംതന്നെ. പക്ഷേ ഗവൺമെണ്ടു കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോ

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ട്ടെന്നും പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കാതെ അടിയന്തിരമായി ഏതാനുംചില രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ നടപ്പിലാക്കണം. കമ്മറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ കമ്മറ്റി നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന കൂടുതൽ രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളേയും സ്വീകരിച്ചു പ്രവൃത്തിയിൽ വരുത്തണം. ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതിക്കു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ സവിശേഷമായ ശ്രദ്ധയെ അർഹിക്കുന്ന വേറൊരു സംഗതി ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു പ്രത്യേകം ധരിക്കണം. കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ ക്ഷാമനിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിപ്പാൻ ഒരു മഹായോഗം കൂടുകയുണ്ടായി. ആ യോഗം ഏതാനും നിശ്ചയണം പാസ്സാക്കി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു അയച്ചിട്ടുമുണ്ടു്. അടുത്തദിവസം പുല്ലറ വില്ലേജിലും ഒരു മഹായോഗം കൂടി പല ഗൌരവതരമായ പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും ആലോചിച്ചു പാസ്സാക്കിയ റസലൂഷൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിലേക്കു അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അവക്കു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനോടു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്. ആ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി ഗാഢമായി ആലോചിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ബലമായി പറയുന്നു. ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിനു് വളരെ അധികം സംഖ്യ കെട്ടിയിരിപ്പുണ്ടു്. അതിൽനിന്നും പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപയെങ്കിലും എടുത്തു ചെറിയ ചെറിയ തുകകളായി ചുരുങ്ങിയ പലിശക്കു് കൃഷിവായ്പക്കടംപോലെ അല്പ-വ്യവസായം, കച്ചവടം മുതലായവയ്ക്കായി കടമായി കൊടുക്കണം. കഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടു വലയുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിശപ്പടക്കാൻ വേണ്ടുന്ന എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവൃത്തി ചെയ്യാൻ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു ഇപ്രകാരമൊരു സഹായം ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. ആ തുകയാ മാസംപ്രതിയൊ രണ്ടുമാസത്തിലൊരിക്കലൊ വെവ്വേറെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇന്നു നികുതിപിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ തവണകളായിപിരിച്ചെടുക്കയും അതു ശരിക്കു അടക്കാഞ്ഞാൽ കരംതരാതിരുന്നാൽ ചെയ്യാറുള്ളതുപോലെ ഈടാക്കാവുന്നതും ആണു്. അതു യാതൊരു ആക്ഷേപത്തിനും ഇടയാകുന്നതല്ല. ഈ സംഗതി കൌൺസിലിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനായി ജനങ്ങൾ എന്നെ ഭരമേല്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഈമാസം വ്യാഴം- എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽപെട്ട മറ്റൊരു വില്ലേജായ ചേന്ദമംഗലത്തും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഈ ദാരിദ്ര്യപരിഹാരത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാൻ ഒരു മഹായോഗം കൂടുകയുണ്ടായി. അവിടേയും പലേ പ്രമേയങ്ങളും പാസ്സാക്കി. ആ യോഗത്തിലും ഈ പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ചെറു ചെറു തുകകളായി കടം കൊടുക്കയും ഞാൻ മേൽ പറഞ്ഞപ്രകാരം പരിക്കയും ചെയ്യേണമെന്നു് നിശ്ചയം പാസ്സാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്".

ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഈ ക്ഷാമനിവാരണ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി പ്രതിപാദിപ്പാൻ ഇവിടെ ഒരു അഡ്ജേൺമെൻറ് മോഷൻതന്നെ കൊണ്ടുവരേണമെന്നു് എന്റെ സമ്മതിദായകന്മാർ എന്നെ നിർ

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ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടു. അവരുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകളും യോഗനിശ്ചയങ്ങളും വിവരിക്കുന്ന പല ലഘുപത്രികകളും, എന്നെ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ അനുകൂലിക്കേണമെന്ന അപേക്ഷയും അവർ ഓരോ മെമ്പർമാർക്കും അയക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവ മ്മെണ്ടിന്റേയും കൌൺസ്സിലിന്റേയും ശ്രദ്ധയെ സവിശേഷം പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് ഇന്നലെ ഞാൻ ഒരു അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം ഹാജരാക്കാൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മുസ്ലീം മെമ്പർ ഇന്നു് ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു റെസല്യൂഷൻ ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈയവസരത്തിൽ വേണ്ടതു പ്രവൃത്തിക്കാമെന്നു ഉപദേശിക്കയാലാണു ഞാൻ എന്റെ ശ്രമത്തിൽനിന്നും ഇന്നലെ വിരമിക്കയുണ്ടായതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് നാട്ടിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കും നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അതിശോചനീയമായ ഈ കഷ്ടപ്പാടിനെക്കുറിച്ചു വേണ്ടപോലെ ആലോചന നടത്തി വേണ്ട പരിഹാരം ഒരു നിമിഷവും കളയാതെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ശക്തിയായി ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

മറ്റൊരു സംഗതികൂടി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം കുറികളിൽ ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ ക്ഷാമം കാരണം അവ ശരിക്കു നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതേയും ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ സഹിക്കുന്നു. കുറികൾ പാടെ നിർത്തിക്കളയുന്നതായാൽ പണമിടപാടുകളിൽ പെട്ടവർക്കു പലദോഷങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്നും പണമിടപാടുകൾ നിന്നുപോകുമെന്നും ഒരെതിർവാദം പുറപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്കു എന്തെങ്കിലും പരിഹാരം ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളുടെ സ്ഥിതി വളരെ കഷ്ടതരവും ഭയാനകവും ആയിത്തീരുന്നതാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഓരോ കുറിയും കൊല്ലത്തിൽ പല തവണകളിലായി നടത്തിവരുന്നു. ആ തവണകൾ ചുരുക്കുന്നപക്ഷം അതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് കുറച്ചെങ്കിലും സൌകര്യവും സഹായവും ആയിത്തീരാതെ ഇരിക്കയില്ല എന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

മൂന്നാമതായി നികുതിയുടെ ഇനത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും കുറവു ചെയ്യണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് സന്തോഷമായിരിക്കുമെന്നും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അതു സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്നും എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് നികുതി അടക്കേണ്ട തവണകൾവർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു ഓരോ തവണയും പിരിക്കേണ്ടുന്ന സംഖ്യ ചുരുക്കുന്നതായാൽ ഇന്നു നാട്ടുകാർ അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന വിഷമങ്ങൾക്കു തെല്ലൊരു ശമനം കിട്ടിയേക്കാം. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു നഷ്ടം കൂടാതെയും കഴിയും. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്തതായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു സ്വയം അഭിമാനിക്കയും ചെയ്യാം. ഇതൊക്കെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഉടനടി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. കമ്മറിക്കാർ അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു സമർപ്പിച്ചാൽ അവർ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന മറ്റു രക്ഷാമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളെ നട

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പ്പാക്കയും ചെയ്യണം. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു നാട്ടിന്റെയും ജനങ്ങളുടെയും രക്ഷയ്ക്കായിട്ടു സ്ഥാപിതമായതാണെന്നു ഈ സന്ദർഭങ്ങളിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു തക്കതായ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ കൊണ്ടുകാണിക്കണം.

ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഉടനടി ഇങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതായാൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ അളവറ്റ സ്നേഹബഹുമാനാദികൾക്കു ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു പാത്രമായിത്തീരുമെന്നുള്ള അറിയിപ്പോടുകൂടി ഈ വിഷയം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തിരൂപമായ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചു കൊണ്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ ബലമായി പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I wish to add one word. I need not say much about the economic depression that is prevailing in the country and I am certain that the Government are also aware of that and besides my predecessors have elaborately discussed that matter. I do not wish to go into the same again. But I think the Government can do, by way of some preliminary steps, certain things for the relief of the people. I know that the Government must have received hundreds of petitions from various persons, who were under certain obligations to the Government. I know all the toddy shop keepers have been petitioning and there are several other contractors and others also who have been requesting the Government to show some leniency in the matter of the collection of dues from them. I know that the Government has no doubt taken that matter seriously into consideration and something is attempted to be done. I think that the Government can, without much inconvenience, relax the rule of immediate payment of their amounts to the Government Treasury. Give them fairly long and easy terms, until things are better. Allow them some relief and not insist upon the immediate payment of remittances that are due to the Government. So also they can give them some relief in the collection of taxes and other dues to the Government. The Government can also, as suggested by the Muslim Member, set apart a small amount, out of the hoarded surplus that we have got, a few lakhs of rupees to be distributed among the people, with conditions certainly to repay them, so as to assist people either for agricultural projects or for some industrial endeavours. So much so, if you want, there are various methods by which you can come to their rescue. As has been pointed out by the Muslim Member, it is no justification to say that it is a world-wide calamity and that one particular State cannot control this general disaster and that you cannot help people in any way. I quite agree with the same Member that it is the Government who should come to their rescue. And the Government will certainly be shirking in its duty if it were to say to the people, who are in such distress, that 'we are equally conscious of the difficulty, but we cannot

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help it'. A committee consisting of the Diwan Peishkar or some of the expert Members and some other Members of this House may be constituted immediately and just now, without waiting for the final report of the committee, the Government should immediately do something for them. I say again this is a resolution which is of very great importance and the Government ought to take immediate action.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I wish to add one or two words to the discussion of this very important resolution. The problem that we are now called upon to solve is indeed a very difficult one and that is the very reason why you should try all your resources to grapple with the situation. Now, so far as the present economic position of the whole State is concerned, it is no exaggeration to say that every home product is absolutely without any value whatever. No cultivator is willing to cultivate because the out-turn is not going to meet the costs of cultivation even. So that cultivation has actually become hopeless. We do not find any of our products exported. And European firms on the other side are sending away their staff. They are keeping only so many as are absolutely necessary so far as the office work is concerned. So far as the coolies are concerned, they are all sent away, as there is no commercial work going on. And you know, Sir, so far as Cochin is concerned, it mainly depends upon paddy cultivation, cocoanut cultivation, pepper cultivation and these things are absolutely without any value now, and the people are reduced to a very destitute position. And you know, Sir, my friend has been speaking of toddy shop keepers. I think the Diwan has been flooded with petitions by the Devaswam tenants, on account of the price of paddy fixed. Thirteen annas has been fixed as the commutation rate for paddy. We know as a matter of fact that paddy is being sold at a much less price, and the tenants are flocking to the Government for some sort of redress. This distress is not peculiar to Devaswam tenants only. It is common to each and every member except, as was stated here, a few Government servants who get their pay regularly, and not actualty feeling this distress. It is certainly the duty of the Government to try to solve this problem. How you are going to solve? Whether you are going to appoint a committee and what their recommendations would be, these, most probably, are not the concern of the people. They look to you for some help. They will be only thankful to you if your big schemes, your shifting of the College to Ramavarmapuram and all those important works which are not very urgent, be put off. This is the most urgent thing now. They want some relief and we all look to you, Sir, to some sort of solution. So far as this economic

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depression is concerned, no doubt, it is a world-wide movement but we must try to find out some means of solving it and it is not enough if we simply say that it is a world-wide movement. We must try to find out means and do something to the relief of the people. What all those means are, it is not for me to suggest. It is for the Government to suggest, for the experts to suggest and they can rely upon the hearty co-operation and sympathy of the people and the House. We always shall be ready to render all help in our power. But it is the primary duty, I think, of the Government to look to this matter very urgently. I don't think I need say anything further for recommending this resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No subject more important than this has ever been tabled in this House. On the opening day, when I extended a warm welcome to you, I added three words that the time may be nearing when all may be fed. The question of feeding the people in the land is the most primary question that any Government can be faced with. There is only one country that has done it, to my mind, in all my readings. And I go back to the land of the Pharoahs, where during times of prosperity the Government put their heads together to find out how the people can be fed, if an adverse time comes. During our prosperous time here, I have been advocating inside this House to tackle the problem of the welfare of the people more than once and I have been ridiculed in this House. I brought forward a bill to provide some means of sustenance to the abject poor, the widow, the orphan and the aged and I could not get a hearing inside this House. And I have lived to-day, to see that every Member from every corner getting up and saying, "give something to feed our poor people. They are faced with starvation." Therefore, Sir, this is a problem which you must face, *if you are a Government charged with the welfare of the people.* But if you are only a Government charged with the moving of the machinery of administration in the most efficient manner, then it is no part of your function. You must leave them and leave the people to find their method for tiding over the difficulties. But if you go farther than that in the art of Government, and if the Government feel that they are charged with the welfare of the people, to fill the stomachs of the people, then I say you have come to a pass from where you have no other escape now. What is the problem? Feeding people. I know there is no expert inside this House who can feed the people of Cochin. But it is a simple problem. You have got lands. You have got cheap labour now. You say that the cost of production cannot be met out of what is produced from the land. What is it?

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You can get these things done very cheaply. Can you not serve? What is it that people want? People want food. The people do not want money. Who wants money? The rich people who want to accumulate. I want no money at all. If I am fed properly and clothed properly I don't want any money at all! But that is not the problem with which we are faced with to-day. We are faced with the empty stomachs who have little children and the old to earn a living; and the bread-winner is unable to bring sufficient enou h to fill the stomachs. That is the problem that we have to face here. Buy cheap grain. Collect the grain. Fill your granaries with cheap grain. Where you can get money for it you may give it for money. Where you cannot get money give it for nothing. Then Sir, have the granaries, employ people wherever cultivation is not going on and wherever people cannot meet the cost of cultivation help them for cultivation, take in grain from them, pay them not in cash but in kind. In that way help the people. That is one of the ways of helping the people. Provide little rural cottage industries. There are so many other little things which can be given to them and their productions can be harnessed and collected by the Government. Canvass orders for the sale of the articles. Government can help people in all these ways. But if you appoint a committee you will have a long time to wait for their report. And the Government will have to consider it. I don't want to lengthen my speech. My method is a constructive method and not a deliberative method. This is not the time for deliberation. This is the time for action. We want prompt action and the only way is to see how much we can do and what is the money at our balance. Some of our accumulated balances must be taken out for the purpose of feeding, not for nothing; but by giving them work and enabling them to produce, and by distributing wherever it is necessary. I, therefore, support this resolution, to look into the economic distress, with my whole heart.

At 2' past 2 p. m. the House rose for lunch and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon—Sir, the discussions in this House about this resolution have given it a wider scope than its language properly warrants. The resolution runs thus:—

"This Council recommends to the Government toappoint a small committee to investigate and report immediately the causes and the extent of the present econmic depression in the country and to suggest remedial measures"

As I understand it, what it means is that a committee may be appointed to go into the causes of the prevailing economic depression in the country and to suggest measures which would remove those causes and restore the economic equilibrium of the State. But in the discussions in this House, as I said before,

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it has been given an extended scope by recommending the appointment of a committee to suggest relief measures, that is, to suggest measures which would give immediate relief to the persons who are the victims of this economic disturbance. First of all I have to state that these two are distinct matters. What we are concerned about this resolution is whether it will serve any purpose to appoint a committee to investigate into the causes of the economic depression and to suggest remedies. My submission is that no useful purpose will be served by the appointment of a committee. First of all it is stated in the House that the committee to be appointed should be a committee of experts, that is, persons who are well up in economic principles and also conversant with the economic conditions prevailing in other parts. It seems to me that it will be very difficult to get a committee of experts to go into this question. The mover himself has stated in his eloquent speech that no two people are agreed upon the causes of the present economic depression.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I mean ignorant people.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—You said knowing people too. I say it will be very difficult to form a committee of experts and we cannot therefore accept the resolution. In one of the resolutions it was stated that the Diwan Peishkar shall be the Chairman. I confess my ignorance of the causes that have caused the economic depression and would like to be excused from the committee. Now as I understand it, the distress, if any, is mostly in places were people depend for their sustenance upon coir industry and cocoanuts.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In paddy producing countries we have great distress. I mean Chittur. I cannot allow it to go unchallenged.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—To me it appears that it is a godsend that the price of paddy has gone down. Had it been otherwise people would have suffered more. Now that foodstuffs are within easy reach of the poor they are able to get on.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What about the failure of crops for want of water last year? It is a divine punishment on the Chittur Taluk.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Who can prevent that? With all the water you have you still complain of insufficiency of water. There are places where there is no water and they are not so very clamourous as you are.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink!

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Now let us take the condition

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of the people who are really distressed and who are not making so much clamour about their distress. They are, I say, who depend mostly for their sustenance upon cocoanut and cocoanut produce. These products have gone down in value owing to want of facilities to sell them at a fair price. If they should bring in any good price they must be exported to foreign markets who alone could give good prices for them and if they are to be exported in larger quantities the trade depression in those purchasing countries must be improved. The question is how their purchasing power could be increased.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—You can have a High Commissioner.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Yes. You have a hoarded surplus and you can pay him and get rid of it.

The question that is really to be tackled here is how the purchasing power of foreign countries which take up our produce can be increased. Can a committee sitting here and making enquiries do anything in the matter? Unless that question is solved how can we get a better price for our products. If anyone in the House can suggest that, by the appointment of a committee, expert or non-expert, the situation can be improved the Government will be only too glad and willing to follow that suggestion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Why not start relief works?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Such works may be started in places where relief measures are urgently needed. But in that form the resoultion was not presented and the Government had not time to consider and make a statement. You all know that unless there is full consideration of the question no definite statement can be made. To-morrow you will say that the Leader of the House made such and such a statement in the House and that it must be carried out.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Can you give a statement after consultation with the Government to-morrow?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I cannot positively say that I could. I shall try. I may however say that if a proper representation is made to the Government and if the Government is satisfied that relief is urgently required something tangible will be done. Now as regards the prayer made in the memorials submitted to the Government by the people of Azhikode, Cranganur, Chennamangalam and other places, I may say this much. They pray that ten lakhs of rupees may be set apart for relief purposes and distributed among the famine-stricken people. Let us examine how far this will benefit the people. There will be a good number of people deserving help. If among them this ten lakhs

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be distributed some may get Rs. 20, others ten and several others much less. Such small pittance will not carry them far and manifestly therefore this is no solution of the problem. The only solution is probably to provide work for the distressed. If necessary works are available, they may be taken up immediately. I say on proper representation this matter, I am sure, will receive the consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. Mahomed Seethi.—What about remission of taxes?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—On all these matters you can memorialise the Government. Off-hand no reply can be given. It is impossible. It Government were to remit payment of taxes, etc. I wonder how it could function.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Monthly pay will be affected.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Will you please look at the programme laid before the House and examine what amount of money may be required to carry it out. You are not, I am afraid, considering the programme as a whole.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—You take 13 annas for a para of paddy of Devaswam pattoms when paddy is selling at ten annas a para.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Now it has been reduced to twelve annas.

Mr. S. S. Koder.—Even twelve annas is abnormal.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The Chittur people were selling paddy at 80 and 90 rupees a cart load.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Even 120 rupees. There was such a time.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I request the Hon'ble Member will not think that the Government is in any way not sympathetic or would not do what will be practicable and what will be good.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Cannot the Government start relief works?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Yes. On proper representation the matter will be considered.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What would be a proper representation? This itself is a proper representation.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I said that the matter will be considered. I cannot make a more definite statement.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Government should take urgent steps for relief work.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Everything possible will be done.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Any more qualifying words in the dictionary?

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Nothing wrong in being cautious.

Deputy President.—What are the steps to be taken ?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I am more pained than surprised at the answer given by the Hon'ble Member, the Leader of the House. My resolution is very specific. My resolution is a request for the appointment of a very small committee. I was very careful in wording the resolution. I was also very diffident about the committees that are generally in vogue here. I don't want to have a committee of holiday politicians, or a committee of arm-chair politicians. I really want a committee who would really feel for the country, who would have time and who will really spend it for finding out a solution of this question. I did not deliberately name the committee because I could not make up my mind as to the names of three or four persons who would sit at it from day to day. Here is a very serious problem. We must tackle with it. I don't agree with the Government when it says that the problem is too big for us and that we are helpless in the matter. I don't think that we are such a useless lot. The Hon'ble Member for Land Revenue says that there are no proper men in our State to investigate this question and that we have to go outside the State to get experts. What of that ? If the situation in the country really warrants the bringing down of experts from outside, is it not worthwhile to spend some money that way and do something considering the situation that we are going to have in the future. We know the price of food-stuffs has been going down for the last 5 years and recently it has gone by fifty per cent, not only of cocoanuts, not only of paddy or pepper but of arecanuts and so many other things. There must be some cause for all these. I deliberately avoided narrating the causes that suggested to me because I thought it would create many side issues, the discussion of which may cloud the main issue before us. I deliberately avoided suggesting several remedies for the same reason. My position is that the Government should have a systematic programme, not some relief measures here and there or draw 10 lakhs of rupees from the treasury and distribute it among the needy. We must first know where we are. Even that you do not know. The position taken up by the Government reminds me of a conversation that I had recently with a poor man in my constituency. He said " The Government won't do anything in the matter. They welcome this economic depression. They will be only glad as long as they get their full sixteen annas in the rupee. They have to spent only very little as the articles of consumption are

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cheaper in these days". I never thought then that the Government would exhibit such callous indifference to a question that vitally affects every one of his Highness' subjects.

Deputy President.—There is as much depression out side as in this State.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—That may be so, Sir. It may be a world-wide depression. But every responsible Government is taking measures to fight out the economic forces. What are we doing? We sit idle and say, we are helpless. "To-morrow the price will go high. A ship will come. Our articles will go out and bring money to us". Sir, it is not enough if we do this. Any amount of money spent on this will not be wasted. We are drifting from bad to worse every day. A committee should at once be appointed to go into this question fully. If you have no proper men here, get experts from outside and pay them liberally. If you cannot spent money on experts from outside, let us be satisfied with the men that we have. Let a small committee collect the necessary informations and statistics, study the situation here and outside and suggest remedial measures. Its recommendations will be of great help to the Government as well as to the people. I therefore submit that it is a very urgent matter and it is a thing that should not be so lightly dismissed. I request every Member of the House to support this resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Are you in a position to give us some information whether the Travancore Darbar has taken any steps in this direction?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I can't say.

The resolution was then put to the vote of the House and carried, Government voting against.

(12). Co-operative Societies' Rules.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I beg to move the following resolution.—

"This Council recommends to the Government to abrogate or repeal the new rules framed under the Co-operative Societies Regulation and lately published in the Gazette dated 19th Karkadagam 1104, Part I, page 695."

Before I move this resolution I may draw the attention of the Council to the objects achieved by the co-operative movement. The co-operative movement is essentially a non-official movement so that the management and custody of the movement should be regulated mainly by the non-official bodies constituting the societies. The Government's duty in that connection is, so far as I am aware, to supervise the management of such associations and also to co-operate with the members in attaining the objects aimed at. So the Government's function should be to co-operate with the non-officials to make the movement a success. Instead of that to enter in an unjust

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